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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being electronically transmitted to the United States Patent and Trademark Office, Commissioner for Patents, via the EFS pursuant to 37 CFR §1.8 on the below date:

Date: April 27, 2009

Name: Tadashi Horie, Reg. No. 40,437

Signature: 

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Appln. of: Toshihiko Oba

Appln. No.: 09/673,360

Filed: October 16, 2000

For: A PROSTHETIC HEARING DEVICE
THAT TRANSFORMS A DETECTED
SPEECH INTO A SPEECH HAVING A
SPEECH FORM ASSISTIVE IN
UNDERSTANDING THE SEMANTIC
MEANING IN THE DETECTED
SPEECH

Examiner: RIDER, JUSTIN W

Art Unit: 2626

Confirmation No.: 6711

Attorney Docket No: 11934/3

SEVENTH SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 CFR §1.56 and §§1.97-1.98, and more particularly in accordance with 37 CFR §1.97(c), Applicant hereby cites the following reference(s):

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS		
DOCUMENT NO.	DATE	COUNTRY
JP 11-3369 A	01/06/1999	JPO
JP 9-206329 A	08/12/1997	JPO
JP 9-116648 A	05/02/1997	JPO

OTHER ART – NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS

Japanese Office Action issued March 19, 2009 in Japanese patent application number 2000-600451 (with partial translation), total 3 pages

Applicant is enclosing Form PTO-1449 (one sheet), along with a copy of each listed reference for which a copy is required under 37 CFR §1.98(a)(2). Pursuant to the undersigned attorney's obligation and duties under 37 C.F.R. §§1.56 and 1.98(a)(3) and

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(c), either English language abstracts, partial translations, or full translations are included for patent documents which are not in English for the express purpose of providing a concise explanation of the references to the Patent and Trademark Office with the opportunity to evaluate the same. Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner's consideration of the above reference(s) and entry thereof into the record of this application.

Reference H4 is a copy of the Office Action issued on March 19, 2009 in the counterpart Japanese application. References H1-H3 were cited in Reference H4. Reference H4 also cited JP 10-290498, which was already disclosed in the Third Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement dated January 24, 2004. References H1-H4 are in Japanese. Applicant is submitting an English abstract for each of References H1-H3, and a partial English translation for Reference H4.

By submitting this Statement, Applicant is attempting to fully comply with the duty of candor and good faith mandated by 37 CFR §1.56. As such, this Statement is not intended to constitute an admission that any of the enclosed references, or other information referred to therein, constitutes "prior art" or is otherwise "material to patentability," as that phrase is defined in 37 CFR §1.56(a).

For purposes of 37 CFR §1.704(d), the Applicant or Applicants certify that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart application, and that this communication was not received by any individual designated in 37 CFR §1.56(c) more than thirty days prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement (a copy of any foreign communication first citing a listed reference is attached for the Examiner's reference).

The Applicant or Applicants certifies under 37 CFR §1.97(e)(1) that each item of information in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement (a copy of

any foreign communication first citing a listed reference is attached for the Examiner's reference). Accordingly, Applicant has calculated no fee to be due in connection with the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. However, the Director is authorized to charge any fee deficiency associated with the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement to a deposit account, as authorized in the Transmittal accompanying this Information Disclosure Statement.

Respectfully submitted,

April 27, 2009

Date



Tadashi Horie
(Reg. No. 40,437)